

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Diana Hynek 07/14/2003
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.
Room 6625
Washington, DC 20230

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for the extension of approval of an information collection received on 05/08/2003.

TITLE: Groundfish Tagging Program

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE

OMB NO.: 0648-0276

EXPIRATION DATE: 07/31/2006

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS(\$,000)
Previous	4,320	346	0
New	1,162	98	0
Difference	-3,158	-248	0
Program Change		0	0
Adjustment		-248	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

OMB Authorizing Official Title

Donald R. Arbuckle Deputy Administrator, Office of
Information and Regulatory Affairs

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated 5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
7. Title	
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	
9. Keywords	
10. Abstract	
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals or households d. <input type="checkbox"/> Farms b. <input type="checkbox"/> Business or other for-profit e. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government c. <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit institutions f. <input type="checkbox"/> State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Application for benefits e. <input type="checkbox"/> Program planning or management b. <input type="checkbox"/> Program evaluation f. <input type="checkbox"/> Research c. <input type="checkbox"/> General purpose statistics g. <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory or compliance d. <input type="checkbox"/> Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: _____ Phone: _____

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator or head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or Staff Office)	
Signature	Date
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature	Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
GROUNDFISH TAGGING PROGRAM
OMB NO. 0648-0276

Prepared by
National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region



BACKGROUND

Beginning with the passage of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976, the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) has undertaken a set of objectives for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources. Under this stewardship role of one of the Nation's natural resources, the Secretary was given certain regulatory authorities to ensure the most beneficial uses of these resources through regional councils. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has prepared groundfish Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for the following fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Alaska: Groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) EEZ under the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands EEZ under the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area. These fishery management plans are implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 679. General regulations that also pertain to these fisheries appear in subpart H of 50 CFR part 600.

The NMFS Groundfish Tagging Program provides scientists with information necessary for effective conservation, management, and scientific understanding of the groundfish fishery resources off Alaska. The collection of information for the Groundfish Tagging Program has been in operation since the early 1970s. Prior to 1992, the OMB control number 0648-0009 included fish tagging reports from all Regions. This was later revised to include only the annual burden for the southwest Regions's tag report.

This statement supports renewal for an existing "collection of information" under OMB 0648-0276, assigned to the Groundfish Tagging Program on the northeast Pacific coast and Alaska. The groundfish tagging and tag recovery program is part of the fishery resource assessment that NMFS conducts under the Magnuson-Stevens Act authority as codified in 16 U.S.C. 1854 (e) and 1801 (a)(8). The program is part of NOAA Operations, Research, and Facilities

Appropriation (13x1450) which is available for necessary expenses of activities authorized by law.

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

This collection involves the submission of tag recovery information from the public. Each year, thousands of fish are caught in the process of NMFS surveys. These fish are weighed and measured, their sex is determined and they are tagged before being released back into the wild. Fishermen and seafood processors subsequently find the tagged fish. By returning the tag along with information on when and where the fish was caught and the size and weight of the fish, these fishermen and processors provide extremely valuable information to fishery scientists and managers.

Groundfish tagging programs in the northeastern Pacific Ocean and Alaska waters provide essential research data on groundfish life histories and migration patterns that are necessary for implementing management regimes. To be most cost effective tagging of sablefish and other groundfish is usually accomplished on board NOAA and NMFS chartered survey vessels as one of many data collection tasks performed during the surveys. Tagging groundfish for subsequent tracking and recovery is an important tool for managing fishery resources and has resulted in numerous scientific and management publications by NMFS personnel.

If the information were not collected, management effectiveness of the groundfish resource would be diminished. Tagging has provided estimates of a number of important biological parameters used in stock assessment models, models that are used to recommend harvest levels. Parameters include growth, fishing and natural mortality, and direction and rates of fish movement among management areas. The parameters are incorporated in population dynamics models such as stock reduction analysis, stock synthesis, and more advanced methods incorporating likelihood functions and non-linear optimization functions. The lack of adequate information derived from tagging would result in groundfish stock assessments that are less accurate thereby decreasing the credibility of the fishery management process and increasing costs associated with under and over harvest of groundfish resources.

There are two general categories of tags. Simple plastic tags (spaghetti tags) printed with code numbers, when returned are correlated with databases of released, tagged fish to determine the net movement and growth rate of the tagged fish. Electronic, archival tags record the depth, temperature or other data which is downloaded from the recovered tags. See the information flyers for photos of each type of tag. Flyers are distributed to inform fishers and processors of the program and to encourage them to be on the lookout for tagged fish. Tag return information is collected through the use of either of two 4" x 6-1/2" forms sent directly to the fishing vessels (or fisherman in charge) or are made available at the processing plants where fishermen unload their catches. One form is specific to sablefish, the other to all other groundfish species. Sablefish are the predominant species tagged. Three to five thousand are tagged annually as part of a long term and well advertised program. Groundfish other than sablefish are tagged in fewer numbers. They are usually tagged on a more opportunistic basis and for shorter duration

projects. A significant percentage of the tags are recovered by fishery agency staff and observers while the remainder are recovered by fishermen and processing workers.

Although the two forms are very similar, it is useful to have distinct forms. The groundfish program and the sablefish program are run from 2 separate facilities (Auke Bay Lab in Juneau, Alaska and Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, WA), and the tagged fish are caught in distinctly different fisheries. Separate forms avoids the need to sort out responses in Seattle and forwarded some to Auke Bay.

The tag recovery information collected from fishermen, observers, port samplers, various state and federal fishery agencies, and fish processors is received by the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, Washington and its Auke Bay Laboratory in Juneau, Alaska. In recent years, between 600 and 1300 tag recoveries have been submitted per year. The number of individuals returning tags varies widely. Many fishers and processors associate the tagging programs with the NMFS observer program and utilize observers onboard fishing vessels and in processing plants to collect and return all tags from that particular vessel or plant. The usual number of people participating ranges between 300 and 400 annually.

The standard tag recovery form is attached to a business reply envelope. Individuals use this envelope to submit and record recovery information for each tag. Typical information collected is: (1) tag number, (2) date of capture, (3) location, (4) size of fish, (5) sex, and (6) depth of capture.

Submitting tag recovery information is voluntary and can be accomplished at any time. Most tag recovery information is submitted directly after a groundfish fishery closure because fishermen are anxious to receive the release information. Recovery information needs to be as accurate as possible, and fishermen are aware of this necessity. Some individuals return recovered tags quickly, while others will accumulate many tags and return them on an annual or seasonal schedule. Less frequent transmittal of data (less than annually) delays processing of the information. Such a delay can make the information less valuable to the fishermen and reduce the temporal significance of the data for prediction of stock abundance by management area.

Existing data sets are used to match recovery and release information for each tag submitted. A letter generated by a series of computer programs and the existing tag release data set provides fishermen with release information for each tag recovery submitted, while providing researchers with information necessary to manage the groundfish fisheries.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

Scientists of NMFS, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), universities, and from Japan and Canada use the groundfish tag identification number, recovery position, biological

data from the tagged fish, (sex, length, weight), and recovery nation, depth, and gear information to study growth rates, mortality, recruitment, migration patterns, and differences by area, sex, size, and depth.

Data collected from the groundfish tagging program are used in population dynamics models to effectively estimate population size and manage the groundfish resource. Information gathered provides data on the rates of migration between the west coast, British Columbia, and Alaska and among Alaska management areas.

Persons consulted on the information requirements of the groundfish tagging program during research cruises, at fishery meetings, and elsewhere over the years include:

1. Dr. Mike Sigler, NMFS, Auke Bay Laboratory, 11305 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801-8626, (907) 789-6037.
2. Dr. Jeff Fujioka, Fisheries Biologist, NOAA/NMFS, Auke Bay Laboratory, 11305 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801-8626, (907) 789-6026.
3. Dr. Jon Heifetz, NMFS, Auke Bay Laboratory, 11305 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801-8626, (907) 789-6052.
4. Frank Shaw, Fisheries Biologist, NOAA/NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98115-0070, (206) 526-4120.
5. Takashi Sasaki, Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory, Japan, 0543-34-0715.
6. Dave Carlile, State of Alaska, Department of Fish & Game, 907-465-4216.
7. Gordon A. McFarlane, Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, 1-604-756-7052.
8. Bob Demory, State of Oregon, Department of Fish and Wildlife, 503-867-4741.
9. Al Millikan, State of Washington, Department of Fisheries, 206-545-6597.
10. Jim Hardwick, State of California, Department of Fish and Game, 408-649-2884.
11. Norman Parks, NMFS Alaska Fisheries and Science Center, 206-526-4107.

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response #10 of this

Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

Electronic archival tags represent advances in the collection of data, both in the quantity and specificity of the data collected from individual fish. However, the means by which respondents report tag information through the mail will not become automated. The necessity of obtaining the actual tag from each fish to verify the data collected make it impractical to seek electronic or other automated methods of collecting tag information.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

No other tagging information is available for groundfish in outside waters off California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. Scientists from the U.S., Japan, Canada, and ADF&G are collaborating to form a joint database of groundfish tag releases and recoveries. Tags can be sent to any of the agencies, because tags will be forwarded to the appropriate agency upon receipt. Duplication of effort and superfluous data collection is avoided through this cooperation. Only the recoverer of the tagged groundfish can supply the information necessary for analysis. There is no other source for this data.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

Individuals at processing plants, on fishing vessels, and state fishery agencies send tag recovery information as tagged fish are caught in state and federally managed groundfish fisheries. Both tag recovery forms require five minutes to complete and are designed to be a minimal burden. Many fishing vessels and processors in the fisheries associated with these tagging programs carry NMFS observers. In the great majority of these instances, tagged fish will simply be handed to the observer for recovery of the tag and recording and forwarding of pertinent information thereby minimizing public burden.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

If the information were not collected, management effectiveness of the groundfish resource would be diminished. Tagging has provided estimates of a number of important biological parameters used in stock assessment models, models that are used to recommend harvest levels. Parameters include growth, fishing and natural mortality, and direction and rates of fish movement among management areas. The parameters are incorporated in population dynamics

models such as stock reduction analysis, stock synthesis, and more advanced methods incorporating likelihood functions and non-linear optimization functions. The lack of adequate information derived from tagging would result in groundfish stock assessments that are less accurate thereby decreasing the credibility of the fishery management process and increasing costs associated with under and over harvest of groundfish resources.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

NMFS Alaska Region has no special circumstances that require information collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the OMB guidelines.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A notice was printed in the Federal Register on January 24, 2003. No comments were received. NMFS observers are a primary liaison between the groundfish tagging program and fishers and processors in the field. Comments from observers are used to gauge participant interest and the general level of participation in the program.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

The various tagging efforts within the groundfish tagging program offer a variety of rewards and incentives for participation (\$5 cash, a ball cap, a fleece vest for multiple returns, etc.) Participants also receive the release information (date, position, depth, size) and data generated from each tag recovered (growth, miles traveled, and days at large). The data associated with the recovered tags is of great interest to fishermen and may be as much of an incentive as the small rewards. For sablefish, there is in addition an annual drawing of the recovered tag numbers; the recoverer of the winning tag number receives \$1,000. The sablefish information is currently more valuable, which is why an additional reward is offered for these tags. Similarly, archival electronic tags earn the participant \$200 for return of an undamaged electronic tag, reflecting the value of the data contained therein.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

Because the information collected is from commercial fishery operations, the Privacy Act does not apply. However, the information collected is confidential under section 303(d) of the

Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.). It is also confidential under NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics. These procedures have been implemented under the NMFS Operations Manual entitled, "Data Security Handbook for the Northwest-Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service."

Under guidance of NOAA General Counsel, Alaska Region, changes to Alaska state regulations have been implemented to allow State access to fishery information collected from the groundfish industry under Federal regulations, consistent with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

This information collection does not involve information of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

The burden associated with a respondent returning a spaghetti tag is five minutes to complete the form. Since a business reply envelope is provided to the participant, no other burden is associated. There are two forms used with this tagging program. The first, the tagged sablefish form, has approximately 800 responses per year (820 tags returned from 350 respondents in 2002). The second, the groundfish tagging form, has approximately 400 responses per year (350 tags returned from 75 respondents in 2002).

Approximately 85 electronic tags are returned per year, however the vast majority of these are simply handed over to on-site NMFS observers thereby incurring no burden. It is estimated that approximately 5 respondents per year return tags themselves. The burden associated with a respondent returning an electronic archival tag is less than twenty minutes to remove the tag and record information.

Annual Time and Cost Burden to the Industry

Groundfish Tagging Program

Tagged sablefish form

Estimated number of respondents	350
Average number of responses per respondent	2.3
Estimated number of responses	805
Average recording time (5 min)083 hr
Time requirement for all responses (820 x .083)	67.1 hr
Burden per hour, in dollars	\$15/hr
Total burden for tagging form (\$15 x 68.3 hr)	\$1025

Tagged groundfish form

Estimated number of respondents	75
Average number of responses per respondent	4.7
Estimated number of responses	352
Average recording time (5 min)083 hr
Time requirement for all responses (350 x .083)	29.3 hr
Burden per hour, in dollars	\$15/hr
Total burden for tagging form (\$15 x 29.1 hr)	\$437

Electronic archival tag return

Estimated number of respondents	5
Average number of responses per respondent	1
Estimated number of responses	5
Average recording time (20 min)0333 hr
Time requirement for all responses (5 x .333)	1.7 hr
Burden per hour, in dollars	\$15/hr
Total burden for tagging form (\$15 x 1.7 hr)	\$25.5

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in #12 above).

Return of spaghetti tags incurs no costs on the part of respondents other than their time. Respondents who return electronic archival tags incur no costs if they simply hand the tagged fish to a NMFS observer, in which case the observer assumes responsibility for collecting and forwarding information. If a fisherman chooses to return an electronic tag himself he will incur the postage costs of mailing the tag (approximately \$2.00 per tag). In either case, the finder of the tag will receive a \$200 reward.

- Total capital and startup cost component (annualized over its expected useful life): no costs.
- Total operations, maintenance, and purchase of services component: \$2 per electronic tag returned x 5/year = \$10.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

Since this is a renewal of an existing program the costs to the Federal government are not affected and remain about \$22,200 a year in rewards and \$2,000 a year in tags, paper supplies, and tagging equipment. The groundfish tagging program requires an average of two full time employees to maintain the database and return release information to the respondents. Minimal ship time costs are incurred because tagging is piggy-backed onto routine stock assessment survey operations.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.

An adjustment has been made due to the fact that an increasing majority of tag returns are handled by NMFS researchers in the field or by NMFS observers aboard fishing vessels or stationed at seafood processing plants.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

Results of the tagging program have been published on a regular basis in such publications as the Fishery Bulletin, Fisheries Research, the International Symposium on the Biology and Management of Sablefish in 1993. A summary report of the sablefish tagging program, *Report to Industry on the Sablefish Tag Program, 1972-2001* is available on-line at

<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/abl/MarFish/sablecruise.html>

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

The forms will be used for tens of years in this study. To reduce paper work, effort, and money expended over the life of the study it is reasonable to eliminate the expiration date on the forms so that frequent renewal efforts will be eliminated. Also, fishermen and processors may keep forms on hand for long periods before needing to use them, and it would be difficult to ascertain that the most recent forms are available to them. Fishermen would be unlikely to replace old forms with new ones just because the OMB date had changed. Consequently, it is requested that the expiration date be omitted from the form.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

This information collection does not request exceptions to the certification statement.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This information collection does not employ statistical methods.

TAGGED GROUND FISH FORM
OMB No. 0648-0276

Please provide the following information, detach, and enclose in envelope with the tag.

SPECIES _____

TAGGING AGENCY _____ TAG PREFIX AND NUMBER _____

DATE Caught _____ LATITUDE _____ LONGITUDE _____
Month, Day, Year

LORAN or Area _____
Include Loran rate

FISH SEX ____ FEMALE ____ MALE

FISH FORK LENGTH ____ round
____ dressed _____
(indicate units)

FISH WEIGHT ____ round
____ dressed _____
(indicate units)

VESSEL NAME _____

GEAR _____

NAME AND PERMANENT ADDRESS

Information regarding tagging and recovery of this fish will be sent to you with a reward. Please provide as much accurate information as you can. Thank you for returning this tag.

The groundfish tag recovery program is part of the fishery resource assessment that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducts under the Magnuson-Stevens Act authority as codified in 16 U.S.C. 1854 (e) and 1801 (a)(8). Tagging information provides essential biological and movement used in groundfish stock assessment. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the address on the envelope. Information you provide is treated as confidential per Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, "Confidentiality of Statistics". Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

TAGGED SABLEFISH FORM

OMB No. 0648-0276

Please provide the following information, detach, and enclose in envelope with sablefish tag, and mail.

Year - Mon - Day

Tag prefix and number _____ - _____ Date Caught ____ - ____ - ____

Latitude _____ Longitude _____ Depth _____

Area or Loran _____
(include loran rate)Fish sex Male ☐ Female ☐Fish fork Length _____ Inch ☐
_____ cm ☐Fish weight _____ lb ☐
_____ kg ☐Round ☐ Dressed ☐

Vessel name _____ Gear _____

Name and permanent address _____

Data regarding this tagged fish will be sent to you with a reward cap. Your name will be entered in the sablefish prize drawing. Thank you.

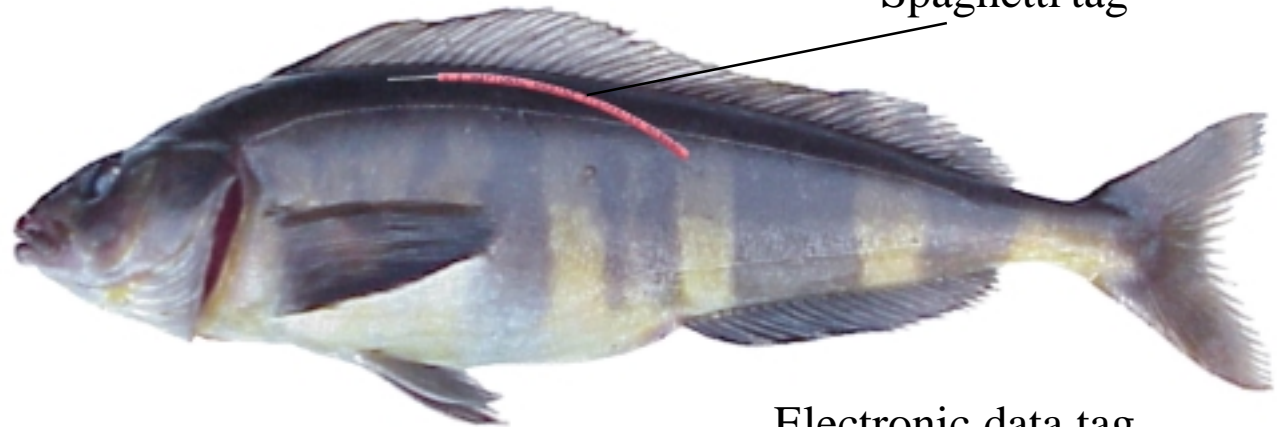
The voluntary groundfish tag recovery program is part of the fishery resource assessment that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducts under the Magnuson-Stevens Act authority as codified in 16 U.S.C. 1854 (e) and 1801 (a)(8). Tag returns provide essential biological and movement information used in groundfish stock assessment. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the address on the envelope. Information you provide is treated as confidential per Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, "Confidentiality of Statistics". Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

REWARD for Atka Mackerel tags

REWARDS for Number of Spaghetti tags returned:

- 1 - 2 Hat
- 3 - 4 Towel
- 5 + Fleece Vest

Spaghetti tag



Electronic data tag

REWARD for return of undamaged Electronic data tag:

\$200



(on opposite side of fish)

NMFS offers rewards for the return of each tag from an Atka mackerel. These are specially marked fish for a migration and abundance study. Please include: **Finders name, address, tag number, fish fork length, sex, vessel name, date, and capture location.**

Finders should turn in the tags and information to the observer on board or send

Spaghetti tags to: Susanne McDermott F/AKC2
National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
7600 Sandpoint Way N.E.
Seattle, WA 98115
Phone: (206) 526-4417

Electronic tags to: Dan Nichol F/AKC1
National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.
Seattle, WA 98115
Phone: (206) 526-4538

RETURN PACIFIC COD TAGS

Orange "Spaghetti" tag

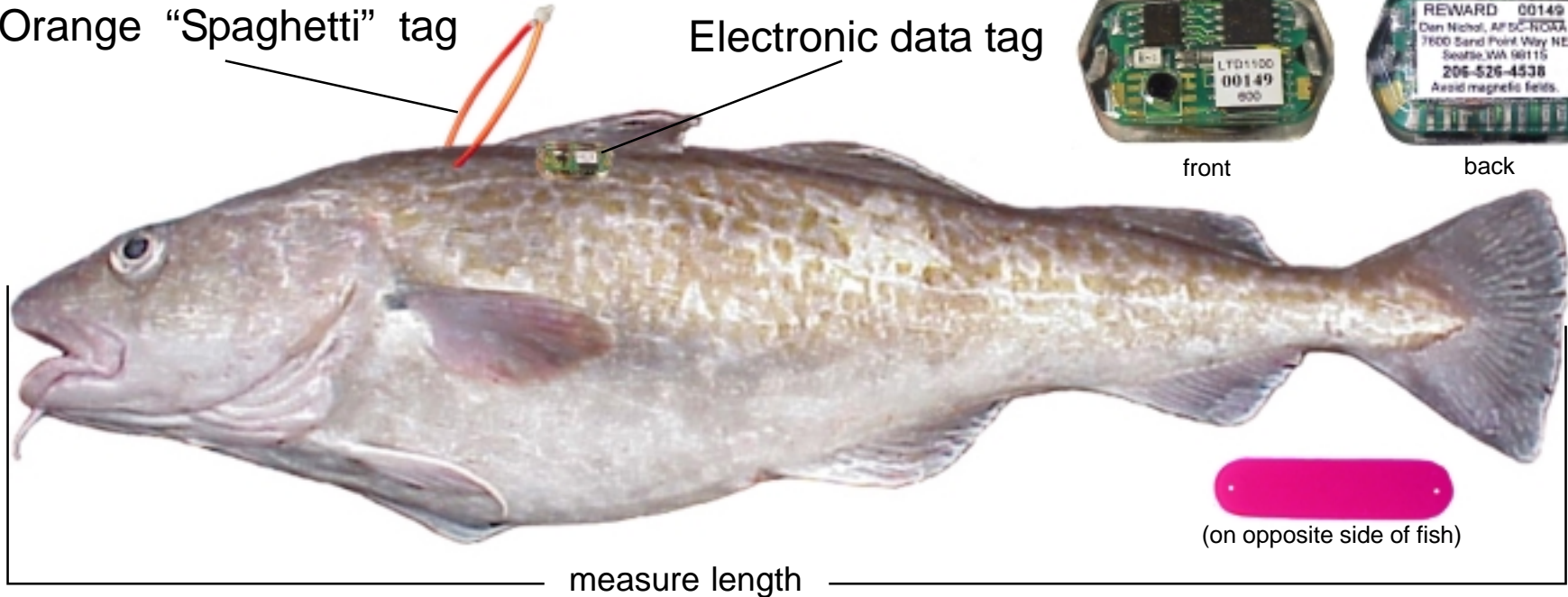
Electronic data tag



front



back



RETURN a "Spaghetti" tag with length, sex and capture information.

GET a **custom embroidered cap** as a reward, and a record of where your fish was tagged.



RETURN an undamaged Electronic data tag with length, sex, and capture information.
(Avoid freezing and avoid magnetic fields)

GET a \$200 REWARD.

- * Retain fish & tag and turn in to NMFS Observer or local NMFS Observer office.
- * If NMFS personnel are not available, do the following:
 - * Collect tag, record capture location, and date.
 - * Carefully measure fish as shown above.
 - * Determine sex of fish.

* Send Electronic tags to:

Dan Nichol F/AKC1
National Marine Fisheries Service
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Spaghetti tags to:

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NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE PACIFIC COD TAGGING PROJECT

BACK OF FLYERS

The voluntary groundfish tag recovery program is part of the fishery resource assessment that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducts under the Magnuson-Stevens Act authority as codified in 16 U.S.C. 1854 (e) and 1801 (a)(8). Tag returns provide essential biological and movement information used in groundfish stock assessment. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response (20 minutes for electronic tags), including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the address above. Information you provide is treated as confidential per Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, "Confidentiality of Statistics". Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Public Law 94-265

As amended through October 11, 1996

SEC. 303. CONTENTS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS 16 U.S.C. 1853

95-354, 99-659, 101-627, 104-297

(a) REQUIRED PROVISIONS.--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, shall--

(1) contain the conservation and management measures, applicable to foreign fishing and fishing by vessels of the United States, which are--

(A) necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery to prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks, and to protect, restore, and promote the long-term health and stability of the fishery;

(B) described in this subsection or subsection (b), or both; and

(C) consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, regulations implementing recommendations by international organizations in which the United States participates (including but not limited to closed areas, quotas, and size limits), and any other applicable law;

(2) contain a description of the fishery, including, but not limited to, the number of vessels involved, the type and quantity of fishing gear used, the species of fish involved and their location, the cost likely to be incurred in management, actual and potential revenues from the fishery, any recreational interest in the fishery, and the nature and extent of foreign fishing and Indian treaty fishing rights, if any;

(3) assess and specify the present and probable future condition of, and the maximum sustainable yield and optimum yield from, the fishery, and include a summary of the information utilized in making such specification;

(4) assess and specify--

(A) the capacity and the extent to which fishing vessels of the United States, on an annual basis, will harvest the optimum yield specified under paragraph (3),

(B) the portion of such optimum yield which, on an annual basis, will not be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States and can be made available for foreign fishing, and

(C) the capacity and extent to which United States fish processors, on an annual basis, will process that portion of such optimum yield that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States;

(5) specify the pertinent data which shall be submitted to the Secretary with respect to commercial, recreational, and charter fishing in the fishery, including, but not limited to, information regarding the type and quantity of fishing gear used, catch by species in numbers of fish or weight thereof, areas in which fishing was engaged in, time of fishing, number of hauls, and the estimated processing capacity of, and the actual processing capacity utilized by, United States fish processors;

(6) consider and provide for temporary adjustments, after consultation with the Coast Guard and persons utilizing the fishery, regarding access to the fishery for vessels otherwise prevented from harvesting because of weather or other ocean conditions affecting the safe conduct of the fishery; except that the adjustment shall not adversely affect conservation efforts in other fisheries or discriminate among participants in the affected fishery;

(7) describe and identify essential fish habitat for the fishery based on the guidelines established by the Secretary under section 305(b)(1)(A), minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects on such habitat caused by fishing, and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of such habitat;

(8) in the case of a fishery management plan that, after January 1, 1991, is submitted to the Secretary for review under section 304(a) (including any plan for which an amendment is submitted to the Secretary for such review) or is prepared by the Secretary, assess and specify the nature and extent of scientific data which is needed for effective implementation of the plan;

(9) include a fishery impact statement for the plan or amendment (in the case of a plan or amendment thereto submitted to or prepared by the Secretary after October 1, 1990) which shall assess, specify, and describe the likely effects, if any, of the conservation and management measures on--

(A) participants in the fisheries and fishing communities affected by the plan or amendment; and

(B) participants in the fisheries conducted in adjacent areas under the authority of another Council, after consultation with such Council and representatives of those participants;

(10) specify objective and measurable criteria for identifying when the fishery to which the plan applies is overfished (with an analysis of how the criteria were determined and the relationship of the criteria to the reproductive potential of stocks of fish in that fishery) and, in the case of a fishery which the Council or the Secretary has determined is approaching an overfished condition or is overfished, contain conservation and management measures to prevent overfishing or end overfishing and rebuild the fishery;

(11) establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in the fishery, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable and in the following priority--

(A) minimize bycatch; and

(B) minimize the mortality of bycatch which cannot be avoided;

(12) assess the type and amount of fish caught and released alive during recreational fishing under catch and release fishery management programs and the mortality of such fish, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable, minimize mortality and ensure the extended survival of such fish;

(13) include a description of the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors which participate in the fishery and, to the extent practicable, quantify trends in landings of the managed fishery resource by the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors; and

(14) to the extent that rebuilding plans or other conservation and management measures which reduce the overall harvest in a fishery are necessary, allocate any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery.

97-453, 99-659, 101-627, 102-251, 104-297

(b) DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS.--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, may--

(1) require a permit to be obtained from, and fees to be paid to, the Secretary, with respect to--

(A) any fishing vessel of the United States fishing, or wishing to fish, in the exclusive economic zone [or special areas,]* or for anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond such zone [or areas]*;

(B) the operator of any such vessel; or

(C) any United States fish processor who first receives fish that are subject to the plan;

(2) designate zones where, and periods when, fishing shall be limited, or shall not be permitted, or shall be permitted only by specified types of fishing vessels or with specified types and quantities of fishing gear;

(3) establish specified limitations which are necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery on the--

(A) catch of fish (based on area, species, size, number, weight, sex, bycatch, total biomass, or other factors);

(B) sale of fish caught during commercial, recreational, or charter fishing, consistent with any applicable Federal and State safety and quality requirements; and

(C) transshipment or transportation of fish or fish products under permits issued pursuant to section 204;

(4) prohibit, limit, condition, or require the use of specified types and quantities of fishing gear, fishing vessels, or equipment for such vessels, including devices which may be required to facilitate enforcement of the provisions of this Act;

(5) incorporate (consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and any other applicable law) the relevant fishery conservation and management measures of the coastal States nearest to the fishery;

(6) establish a limited access system for the fishery in order to achieve optimum yield if, in developing such system, the Council and the Secretary take into account--

- (A) present participation in the fishery,
- (B) historical fishing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery,
- (C) the economics of the fishery,
- (D) the capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries,
- (E) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and any affected fishing communities, and
- (F) any other relevant considerations;

(7) require fish processors who first receive fish that are subject to the plan to submit data (other than economic data) which are necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery;

(8) require that one or more observers be carried on board a vessel of the United States engaged in fishing for species that are subject to the plan, for the purpose of collecting data necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery; except that such a vessel shall not be required to carry an observer on board if the facilities of the vessel for the quartering of an observer, or for carrying out observer functions, are so inadequate or unsafe that the health or safety of the observer or the safe operation of the vessel would be jeopardized;

(9) assess and specify the effect which the conservation and management measures of the plan will have on the stocks of naturally spawning anadromous fish in the region;

(10) include, consistent with the other provisions of this Act, conservation and management measures that provide harvest incentives for participants within each gear group to employ fishing practices that result in lower levels of bycatch or in lower levels of the mortality of bycatch;

(11) reserve a portion of the allowable biological catch of the fishery for use in scientific research; and

(12) prescribe such other measures, requirements, or conditions and restrictions as are determined to be necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery.

Exempted (experimental) fishing permits are issued to applicants for fishing activities that would otherwise be prohibited. The information provided by applications allows the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to evaluate the consequences of the exempted fishing activity and weigh the benefits and costs. Permittees are required to file reports on the results of the experiments and in some cases individual vessels are required to provide minimal data reports. There is also a requirement for a call-in notification prior to a fishing trip. This information allows NOAA Fisheries to evaluate techniques used and decide if management regulations should be changed.

A Federal permit is required to commercially catch groundfish, and permits are endorsed for one or more of three gear types (trawl, longline, and fish pot). Participation in the fishery and access to permits have been limited as a way of controlling the overall fleet harvest capacity. Limited entry permits must be renewed annually and are transferable. Permit owners must fill out renewal forms annually and must fill out transfer forms, as needed.

II. Method of Collection

Permit applications, renewals, and transfers are made on NOAA Fisheries forms. Renewal of limited entry permits also may be completed electronically using an online form on the Fishery Permit Office Web site. The exempted fishing data reports from individual vessels may be submitted in person, faxed, or submitted by telephone by the vessel owner or operator to NOAA Fisheries or the states of Washington, Oregon, or California.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0203.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 707.

Estimated Time Per Response: 20 minutes for a limited entry permit renewal or transfer; 60 minutes for an experimental fishery permit application; 60 minutes for an experimental fishery permit summary report; 10 minutes for an experimental fishery data report; and 2 minutes for an experimental fishery call-in notification prior to a fishing trip.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 341.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$46,616.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 16, 2003

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-1646 Filed 1-23-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 012103B]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Groundfish Tagging Program

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 25, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or

copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Phillip Rigby at 907-789-6653, or at Phillip.Rigby@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The groundfish tagging program provides scientists with information necessary for effective conservation, management, and scientific understanding of the groundfish fishery off Alaska and the Northwest Pacific. The program area includes the Pacific Ocean off Alaska (the Gulf of Alaska, the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area, and the Alexander Archipelago of Southeast Alaska), California, Oregon, and Washington. Fish movement information from recovered tags is used in population dynamics models for stock assessment.

II. Method of Collection

This is a volunteer program requiring the actual tag from the fish to be returned, along with recovery information. Reporting forms with pre-addressed and postage-free envelopes are distributed to processors and catcher vessels. The tag information will be edited and entered into the computer data base. Each person returning a tag will receive information on the release site, growth, and depth and area changes, as well as a reward of a cap.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0276.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 820.

Estimated Time Per Response: 5 minutes for returning a regular tag; and 20 minutes for returning an internal archival tag.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 73.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information

on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 16, 2003.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-1647 Filed 1-23-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 012103C]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Northeast Region Multispecies Party/Charterboat Closed Area Exemption Program

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 25, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Thomas Warren at 978-281-9250, or to Thomas.Warren@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Northeast multispecies party and charter vessels must obtain a letter of authorization from NOAA in order to fish for multispecies in certain areas of the Gulf of Maine closed to commercial fishing (Nantucket Lightship Area

Closure, Rolling Closures, Cashes Ledge Area Closure, and Western Gulf of Maine Area Closure). Because party or charter vessels may hold commercial fishing permits, the authorization program allows NOAA to enforce closed area requirements and ensure that fish harvested under recreational rules are not sold by party and charter vessels.

II. Method of Collection

Requests are made by telephone or in person.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0412.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 528.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 18.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 16, 2003.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-1648 Filed 1-23-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 012103D]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Paperwork Submissions Under the Coastal Zone Management Act Federal Consistency Requirements

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 25, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to David Kaiser, 301-713-3098, ext. 144 or at David.Kaiser@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

A number of paperwork submissions are required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), 16 U.S.C. 1456, and by NOAA to provide a reasonable, efficient and predictable means of complying with the CZMA requirements. The requirements are detailed in 15 CFR Part 930. The information will be used by coastal States with Federally-approved Coastal Zone Management Programs to determine if Federal agency activities, Federal license or permit activities, and Federal assistance activities that affect a State's coastal zone are consistent with the States' programs.

II. Method of Collection

Paper submissions are made following regulatory guidance. No forms are used.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0411.